

HOUSE RESOLUTION 229

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the singing group, the Dynamic Dixie Travelers, for 50 years of musical excellence.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those noteworthy Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary musical talents, have earned the universal respect of their peers and fans; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the field of popular music; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, the singing group, the Dynamic Dixie Travelers, have been traveling, recording, and singing gospel music to audiences across the country; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1957 by Harry Holt and Morris Pollard in Dickson, the group was originally called the Sons of Harmony and consisted of original members, Harry Holt, Morris Pollard, Larry Evans, Willie Lee Hogan, Reverend Van Springer, who was also the first manager, and Alton Horner; and

WHEREAS, another instrumental member of the group was Bishop McCoy, who purchased their first guitar and amplifier, and made certain they had a place to display their vocal talents; and

WHEREAS, today, the talented group is comprised of president and lead guitarist, Slayden Evans, Jr.; lead tenors, Levert Allison and John Holmes; lead baritone, Vernon Holt; background vocalist and keyboardist, Chris Tatum; background vocalist and bass guitarist, Shawn Coleman; rhythm guitarist Edward McClain; writer and producer, Ted Jarrett; and public relations, Tommy Grimes; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mr. Tommy Grimes suggested the group change its name from the Sons of Harmony to the Dixie Travelers; and

WHEREAS, the Dixie Travelers produced their first recording in 1973 under the Nashville label, Nashboro Records; with the guiding hand of record producer Shannon Williams, they released two projects before the label discontinued its gospel record division; and

WHEREAS, the group continued to record its music for posterity on the Ark record label, releasing a 45 rpm single with the songs, "Got To Be Some Rain in Your Life" and "Where Is Jesus"; and

WHEREAS, the Dixie Travelers signed a recording contract with Ted Jarrett, owner of T-Jaye Records, in 1980 and released their first complete album, "So Much To Be Thankful For" under this label; this album was the first gospel album recorded under the typically rhythm and blues T-Jaye label; and

WHEREAS, after signing with T-Jaye Records, the group changed its name again to the Dynamic Dixie Travelers; the newly named group then proceeded to record ten albums with Ted Jarrett and T-Jaye Records; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Dynamic Dixie Travelers have revamped their style to produce a sound that is contemporary, yet traditional, and entirely their own unique sound; the members of the group just say it's "good old gospel, toe-tapping music" that they want their audiences to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the Dynamic Dixie Travelers have performed in every major city across the country and continue to perform in a variety of venues, from television shows, to churches, to auditoriums, and many other non-traditional settings; and

WHEREAS, the harmonious vocal stylings of the Dynamic Dixie Travelers have been seen and heard on the television programs, *The Bobby Jones Show*, the *Nashville Gospel Show*, *Soul of the City*, the *Dewitt Johnson Show*, the *John Patterson Show*, *Gospel Hour*, and the *Chicago Gospel Show*; the group has also performed at religious conventions, such as the American Baptist Convention and World Baptist Center; Nashville nightclubs like the Mercy Lounge and B.B. King's Club; and at local events, including the Waverly Belmont & Edgefield annual event in the park, the Nashville Elks Club, and a book release party honoring Ted Jarrett at the Country Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Dynamic Dixie Travelers epitomize the spirit and dedication that are characteristic of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge the members of the singing group, Dynamic Dixie Travelers, and commend them for their meritorious service as members of significant, yet highly entertaining, gospel music in this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby congratulate the singing group, Dynamic Dixie Travelers, upon the occasion of their fiftieth anniversary, honor and recognize the members' contributions to gospel music, and commend the group's outstanding success and longevity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.